

[4 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

MARANDI: (a) and (b) The Ministry has been approaching the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, from time to time for telecast of environment and forests related films, as a part of its environmental education and training scheme. Doordarshan has been telecasting some films on its various channels.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has presently withheld commissioning of new films in view of the Prasar Bharti's policy of not guaranteeing telecast of films produced by various Ministries and to charge telecast fee in case it decides to telecast the same. A Media Committee has been constituted by the Ministry to look into these aspects.

**Protection of wild ass in the Rann of Kutch**

1420. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Salt Industry threatens wild ass in the little Rann of Kutch", published in The Indian Express of 9th March, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of news item where it is mentioned that salt industry and noise and air pollution are driving wild ass in the Rann of Kutch to extinction.

(c) An area of 4953.70 sq. kms. have been declared as Wild Ass Sanctuary and the settlement of its boundaries is being done on top priority.